

RESEARCH DESIGN

1. Objective: To determine if the area of potential effect of the proposed Governors Avenue improvement project contained architectural resources listed in, previously determined eligible for, or meeting National Register Criteria.

2. Methods:

Research: Background research was conducted at the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office; the Hall of Records, Dover; the Dover Public Library, Dover; the Morris Library, University of Delaware; and the Kent County Tax Assessor's Office, Will Room, and Deed Room, Dover. Historic maps, general histories, biographical information, and deed and tax data were the main sources of information utilized in this study.

Field: An on-site survey of architectural resources built prior to 1950 within the proposed project area identified ten resources. During the field survey, information concerning the type, style, and condition of each resource was collected. The age of each building surveyed was initially determined by visual assessment. Information as to date of construction was later obtained from the Tax Assessor's office as supporting evidence. All relevant survey forms were completed for the ten resources, and are included in Appendix A of this report. Black-and-white 35mm photographs were taken of each resource and of representative examples of the types of resources built post-1950 in the project area.

3. Expected Results: Based on information provided by DelDOT, it was expected that approximately a dozen properties would require investigation. Given the historical development of the project area, it was expected that the properties would date within the first half of the twentieth century.

In order to meet National Register Criteria, resources identified within the project area would have to possess integrity of location, setting, design, material, and workmanship, and to demonstrate qualities of architectural significance and/or association with important persons or events.

Significance of properties under the Settlement Patterns and Demographic Change theme would most likely derive from Criterion A or C. With respect to Criterion A, properties significant under this theme would require documented association with an event or a trend that was important to the history of changing land use in the Dover area. Significance under Criterion C would depend upon the ability of the property or properties to represent physical manifestations of early-to-mid twentieth century suburbanization in the area.

Under the Architecture theme, significance would most likely derive from Criterion C, and would depend upon the resource's ability to constitute an important representation of one or more of the applicable property types.

An eligible suburb should be clearly identifiable as such, exhibiting discernable unity of building types and construction history, and also possessing integrity of overall design, setting, workmanship, and materials.

Craftsman and Minimal Traditional dwellings should clearly demonstrate attributes and characteristics of their particular style and/or plan type, and should exhibit a very high level of integrity with respect to design, workmanship, and materials. Occurrence in a group enhances the ability of such properties to illustrate the phenomenon of suburbanization.